STRANGER THAN FIC-TION.

CHAPTER L.

MRS. CALCEY'S NARRATIVE.

The most terrible day in all my life was that on which they brought my husband home dead.

While I have memory the horror of that morning can never be forgotten. It was a lovely morning, the sky was blue, and the sun shone down on the causi and the rushes, among which the ducklings were bosbing in and out. The fields were yellow with buttercups; the larks were singing fit to buest their little throats; the haythorn was full of flower, and scented all the land. It was a cheery morning, and everybody was in good heart but me.

An hour ago I had been cheery too; exchanging triandly words with the neighbors as they passed, gathering our watercresses the while, and going up to the fence to pay my duty to the ladies walking along the lane, who knew meand stopped to say a kindly good day when they saw what I was doing.

It comes back to me all as this is being set down in writing—the green of the

set down in writing—the green of the earth; the blue of the sky; the soft flow of the water; the little swish and scurry of the ducklings darting after flies, rush-ing under the bank when strangers came in sight; the glory of sunlight that lay across the land, over the fields, over the wild flowers—what a wealth of wild flowers grow along that strip of waste land baside the towing path!—over the water, over the dark pine-woods in the distance, and the blue hills in the further distance still.

Before going out to gather the cre-I had stood for a minute in the little porch before our door, looking at all these things, and thinking what a happy woman I vas. I envied no one; not the squire's daughters, riding past on their slim-legged horses; not Mrs. Grainger, wife of the great miller, as she drove by in her open carriage and a pair of beautiful bays; not the young gentlemen row-ing up the water in their gaily-painted boats; no, not a creature in all the world. I had a good home, a good husband, four healthy children: the prettiest garden in an humble way, of any in the whole neighborhood; such a dear little house, was my pride as much as my pleasure to keep bright as a new pin. I was still under thirty, and I had good health, and had tried to do my duty all my life; and I felt happy, ay, happier perhaps than the Queen on her throne. And it was most likely that just at that moment my husband died!

I had not been long out of the garden, and, what with one interruption and another, I had not gathered many cresses when I heard the sound of some one running like mad down the lane. I lifted my head to look, for the bonnet was tilted over my eyes to keep the sun out of them; but before I could see who was coming, Steve Henton, a young lad that lodged with us, had lifted the latch of the gate and stood beside me.

I opened my mouth to ask why he did not shut the gate after him, but the first look at his face stopped the words on my

It was not pale, it was white. He was panting for breath, and the perspiration was dripping from his forehead. "For the Lord's sake," I cried, "what

has happened!" "Your man," he said, "is badly hurt!
They are bringing him here, and I am
off for the doctor!" And before I could

ask how Ben had got knet, or which way they were bringing him home, he was out of the gate and flying along the road

dazed for a bit, I think. When I came quite to myself (I really do believe people can faint standing) the sun did not shine so bright, the sky did not look so blue, the rushes did not stand out so distinct as they had done before. In a minute, in a second, I had passed from youth to age. Since that time I have loved the blue in the sky and welcomed the sunshine: while I live in this beautiful world it will always, I think, seem beautiful to me; but the sunshine can never be exactly what it was of old; I can nevet again look up into the clear vault of heaven with the same untroubled heart I had of

Your man is badly hurt." Yes, that is what Steve had said.

Badly hurt—my man, my Ben! I ran into the lane and looked up the canal and down the canal, and over the fields that lay on the opposite bank, like one distraught. I did not know which way to go. Steve had come down the lane, but this told me nothing. I ran a few steps towards the mill, and then a few in the other direction; and then I shaded my eyes with my hands, and strained then over the meadows yellow with buttercups, looking if I could see aught coming between the tall grass along the field-path.

If they had been working up near the junction, the field-path would be the likeliest way, and in the far, far distance I see something dark moving slowly, slowly. I was so sure, that I set off up to the foot-bridge over the water; but before I got there, just at the bend of the

lane, I saw some men carrying a burden I was Ben. I ran to meet them. I flew over the ground; I felt as if my feet never touched the earth. They stopped when they saw me, and one of them

"He is badly hurt, Nell." He was lying on a hurdle, and one arm and hand had fallen over the edge of it. I pressed among them and took hold of that hand. Then they tell inc. I don't remember anything about it myself—that I gave an awful scream, and, crying out, "Hurt—be's dead!" fell all in a heap at the feet of the man who had

After that I was very ill. When I got a bit strong again, and able to sit up in bed with a pillow at my leach, the funeral was over, and the house dreadfully still and quiet.

The children had been sent out of the way, and my mother was with me; and there was no Ben, no husband, on earth any more. We had never been cross nos snappish to one another; he was the best man that girl ever married; he had kissed

me that morning before he went away to his work, and I lay and cried when I remembered that parting till I thought my very heart would break.

But mother only said,: 'Cry all you can, my poor Nell-it'll do thes good;" for I had been out of my head for many days, and then a hard sort of way came over me, and I seemed to feel no more thun if I had been turned to stone. So she was thankful at last to see the tears "Sufficient is de grounds of dis occacome, though they seemed to tear my sion. When I rented ten acres and life-strings as they ran.

carried, and the cattle were grazing where the buttercups had been; and there lay a blue haze over the further landscape, that looked like a thir veil marked:
hung between us and the pine-trees in the distance. Behind our cottage wheat Pm careck. I's a learned man, and can was growing, and the ears were already read clar aroun' de majority ob colored full, and the grain ripe, and the harvest

crept out into the sunshine once again. There were the flowers his hands had planted, the scarlet-ruoners he had sown, the potatoes he had earthed up, the rose he had trained—but where was he? There was not a bush in the garden but recalled some memory of the dead. The very click of the latch on the gate I associated with his outgoing and his incoming.

It seemed to me as if he could not have gone forever, as if he must return, and come whistling down the lane and crunch the gravel under his feet as he came up the walk and shout: "Hillo! Why, Jimmy! why, Susy!" as the chil-dren ran to meet him, and clasped him round the knees and shrieked with delight because "daddy had got home."

I had no tears left to shed, and there

was no wicked bitterness in my grief, thank God. I was sad and lonely and weak, but not desperate, when I lay back in the old easy-chair, with the flowers round and about me, and the air full of all sweet scents, and mother sitting close at hand shelling beans for supper.

Wh ther it was my fancy or the way the light fell, I do not know, but it struck me all at once she had aged greatly since Ren's death.

What a mother she was! What a wife she had been! through what troubles struggled to bring up her children respectably! Poor father was not a man like Ben. Often as not he never brought home a farthing of his wages. He was a good workman, but he drank himself out of one situation after another; and when at last he fell ill, she had to durse him and keep him, all out of her own hard earnings, and finally to bury him, too, with the money she made by washing for a few of the gentry round and about. I thought of all this is I looked at the worn, patient face bent down over the beans, at her thin brown hands, hardened with the honest labor of years, at her plain stuff gown, at the snowy handkerchief folded across her bosom; and my heart reproached me for all the anxiety my illness must have caused her; for having thought so much of my own tsouble that I had never considered the trouble I must be giving her.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Making Overrures to a Lion.

[Portland Oregonian.] A young man who had recently arrived from the East was engaged at the United States fish-hatching establishment in McCloud River. One day last week he took a row-boat and pulled up the river a short distance, crossed to the op-God help me! I must have stood Just as he was stepping out of the boat azed for a bit, I think. When I came the young man looked up on the bank over his head and saw what he thought was a large mastiff dog. "Some of those Indians have stolen him," he thought to himself, "and I will take him home with me." Climbing the hill with difficulty, he was soon face to face with his mastiff. He whistled and suapped his thumb and fingers coaxingly, but instead of taking his advances kindly, the animal uttered a low grown and assiltation in the summal uttered. a low growl, and, oscillating his tail from side to side, prepared to go for that young man. The latter, now terribly alarmed, started for his boat, tumbling headlong down the bill, and just managed to get into his craft and push it into the stream as an immense specimen of the California lien landed upon the shore. Of course the lien would not take to the water, so the young man was safe, but he says he shall be careful how he makes overtures to strange dogs in a strange country after this. He was entirely unarmed at the time, and after he got into his boat heard the growls of another in the bush, showing that there was evidently a pair of the "creatures."

A Poplish Student.

The other day the Queen of Sweden received an anonymous letter calling upon her to send to a given address the sum of 2,000 crowns (about \$525), the writer, in case of non-compliance; threatening to shoot the Crown Prince at the first opportunity. The anonymous writer further declared that if the matter were

further declared that if the matter were placed in the hands of the police, he would instantly commit aucide, and the Queen would then, for the pality sum of 2,000 crowns, have the death of one of her subjects on her conscience; on the other hand, he declared that as soon as he was well enough off he wenld repay the amount by giving it to some charity, and thus lessen the offense.

The police were at once informed, and a detective was placed as the posteffice to watch for the person who might call for the reply. After he had writed several days in vain, a commissionaire finalty came and claimed the letter. He was followed, and when he handed the letter to a wong man both were secured but the commissionaire was at once released. It turns out that the writer of the letter is a student only 19 years old, who was is a student only 19 years old, who was in want of money to continue his studies. He acknowledged having sent the latter as a "hoax." It is supposed the King of Sweden will not insist upon the young man suffering the full penalty of his of-

Physicians use Kidney-Wort in regular practice and pronounce its action perfect.

A TEN-ACRE WIFE.

Unsufted to a Barky with Sixty

Acres of Land. [Little Rock (Ark.) Gasette.] Yesterday Solomon Glass, a calors man, whose experience in agricultural pursuits has enlightened his neighbormood, came to town with a view of get-ting a divorce from his wife. When asked upon what grounds, he replied:

worked one mule, I married a 'oman When I was well enough to walk across suitable for de occasion. Now I rent the liteben, she holding me—for I kept sixty acres ob lan' and work five mules weak as a cat—and sit in an easyschain My fust wife is a mighty good ten-acre placed in front of the door, the grass in wife, but she door't suit de occasion ob the meadows was all cut and the hay sixty acres. I needs a 'oman what can spread more."

When told by a lawyer that the grounds were not sufficient, he re

gentleman and a great many white felquite ready for the reaper.

But Ben would never see earthly grain nor human reaper more. I had cried all French, I talks about it. You know my tears, or I should have wept when I Beauharnais."

"Yes," said the lawyer, "but you may become a trifle too historically opulent if

you proceed much farther."
"Dat's all right. An' you know dat
when he got to de head of de guberh-ment, an had charge of all de comissaries. he wanted a wife what would spread more, an' he got a dispensation from Josephine, an' hitched onto Maria Louisa. case she could spread more. Dar's de history an' dar's de precedent, an' ef a man can't get dispensation on dese groun's whar's yer Court-houses, an' whar's yer law?"

A special session of the legislature may be called, but otherwise Mr. Solomon Glass must continue to be the husband of a ten-acre wife.

Rheumatism and Its Bational Treatment. Rheumatism is a constitutional affection

Rheumatism is a constitutional affection attended with a peculiar irritation or inflammation to which all parts of the system are liable. The disease may be divided according to its seat, or its grades of excitement, thus the following varieties may be recognized: The Acute—violent local inflammation and fever. The Chronic—characterized by leave described. acterized by long duration, and lowest grade of inflammatory action. The Nerv-ous—in which there is neither inflammaous-in which there is neither inflamma-tion or fever. The billious-the irritation extends to the liver. All these various types yield readily to the remedial influence of Swedish Bitters. Take a table spoonful every three hours until the bows have been thoroughly evacuated, ther diminish the dose, taking just sufficient before each meal to act as an alterative. Be careful that the bowels are relieved at least twice each day. Where the pain is local, apply Brill's Pain Eradicator. Flannel. carded wool or cotton moistened with it and covered over the part affected, has proven very successful. A large package of the Swedish Bitters will be sent by mail on receipt of one dollar. Address Swedish Medicine Company, Pittsburg, Pa. Circu-lars forwarded on receipt of postage stamp.

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SEVERE BHEUMATISM.

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Thomas Johnson, of said township, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he has been severely afflicted with rheamatism for above a year, and was so bad that he could scarcely walk, being bent aimost double, and was netterly unable to do any work. Having heard of the wonderful cures made by Dr. Tobias' Venetian Liniment, he was induced to try it, and after using it a short time, was able to go to work again, after being unable to do anything for nearly a year.

T. JOHNSON.

Sworn to before me.

J. H. BRINGKHRHOPP, Justice of the Peace.

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Yours truly,

JAMES SWEET.

ASTREME A. This is to certify that I have had the Asthma siace 1841, and have been treated by many physicians without reflef. Your Venetian Liniment has made a perfect core.

WM. Y. TOWNSEND.

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Royal Mail Steamer America.

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Such are to be found in DR. TOBIAS' HORSE
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This is to certify that I sold, on the 28th inst., three thousand one hundred and forty-one (3.141) bottles of my Venotian filminent.

S. I. TOBLAS.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 28th day of October, 1872.

Commissioner of Deeds.

FROM COL. D. McDANIEL.

ming Horses in the World.

Jerons Park. June 21, 1877.

This is to certify that I have used Dr. Tobins' Horse Venetian Liniment and Derby Condition Powders, on my rece-horse, and found them give perfect satisfaction. In fact, they have never falled to cure any allment for which they were used; the Liniment, when rubbed in by the hand, never blisters or takes the hair off; it has more penetrative qualities than any other I have tried, which I suppose is the secret of its wonderful success in curing spraine. The inspredients from which the Derby Powders are made have been made knows to me by Dr. Tobins; they are perfectly harmless.

D. McDANIEL.

From Col. C. W. Belevaw.

New York, April 20, 1877.

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advertisement of CARBOLINE, and on the recommendation of a friend concluded to try a bottle,
without any great hope of good results, however,
I have now used it less than a month, and to my
most screenble astoniahment my nead is complete,
ly covered with a fine, short, healthy growth alhair, which has every sppearance of continued
growth; and I confidently believe it will restore it
as completely as ever it was in my youth.

I take great pleasure in offering you this testimontal, and you have my permission to publish
the same. Yours, truly,

CHAR E WHITE, Davisville, Cal

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of November, 1878.

JAMES D. KING, Notary Public.

JOSEPH E. POND, JR., Attorney at Law, North Attleboro, Mass., says: "For more than twenty years a portion of my head has been as smooth and free from heir as a billiard ball, but some sight weaks ago I was induced to try your Carboniss, and the effects have been simply wonderful. Where no hair has been seen for six years, there now appears a thick growth. I expect the growth to be slow, but it is growing now nearly as rapidly as hair does after it is cut. You may use the above testimonial if you choose, and may refer to me for its truth."

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